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TULE LAKE BIRD REFUGE  
ESTABLISHED IN CALIFORNIA

Public Shooting Grounds Provided  
in Southern Portion

By Executive order, President Coolidge has created the Tule Lake Bird Refuge in northern California, thus bringing to 80 the number of wild-life reservations administered by the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. The new refuge consists of 10,300 acres of Government lands in northeastern Siskiyou County, California, within the Klamath Irrigation Project. These lands are flooded to a considerable extent by waste water and thus form an excellent waterfowl resort.

Paul G. Redington, Chief of the Biological Survey, in commenting on the establishment of this project, states that it is a most important addition to the list of wild fowl refuges established by Executive order and by Acts of Congress. Tule Lake has long been the mecca for such wild fowl as the mallard, redhead, ruddy duck, cinnamon teal, avocets, stilts, and other shore birds. It also is a favorite wintering ground for the cackling goose, a bird that breeds on the northwest coast of Alaska.

The layout of the area is such, due to mud conditions along the shores, that a natural refuge has existed in the northern part of the Tule Lake area, but sportsmen have in the past found their recreation on other portions of the area. In order not to mete out undue hardship to these sportsmen, it was deemed advisable to allow a continuance of hunting privileges on an area at

the southern end of the lake, and accordingly the Secretary of Agriculture on October 10 approved an order permitting hunting on 2,800 acres south of the line forming the north boundary at Sections 33 and 34 of Township 47 North, Range 4 East, Mount Diablo Meridian. The inviolate refuge, therefore, comprehends 7,500 acres of land extremely valuable for resting and feeding grounds for the birds which frequent the area.

Mr. Redington further states that this refuge, which lies just south of the California-Oregon line, will supplement the Clear Lake refuge in California, just east of Tule Lake, and the recently established Upper Klamath refuge, on the west shore of Klamath Lake, in Oregon. A year ago it was announced that because of lack of water a reflooding program on Lower Klamath Lake, west of Tule Lake, would have to be abandoned. The establishment of the refuge, therefore, on Tule Lake will in a measure offset the loss of possible sanctuary caused by the abandonment of the Lower Klamath project.

It is further stated that because of the encroachment of industrial and agricultural development the wild fowl have in many areas throughout the United States lost their former homes and stopping places, and that the Government in its obligations under the Migratory Bird Treaty with Great Britain is steadily working for the reestablishment of suitable water areas so that the wild fowl may regain something of what they have lost. The setting aside of such areas strategically located along the principal lines of migration will probably do more for the future welfare of the wild fowl than any other one measure. Protective laws relating to seasons and bag limits are in effect and play their part in the conservation of ducks and geese, but these will be of little avail if they are not backed by the establishment of refuges such as the one just set aside.